

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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UNCLAS NEW DELHI 12896

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN

SUBJECT: INDIA CRITICIZES HUNZA MERGER

REF: ISLAMABAD 9100

THE INDIAN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ON SEPTEMBER 25
RELEASED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE
ANNOUNCED MERGER OF HUNZA STATE INTO THE NORTHERN AREAS
OF PAKISTAN:

BEGIN TEXT: PREMIER BHUTTO'S ANNOUNCEMENT, REPORTED BY
RADIO PAKISTAN ON SEPTEMBER 24, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE
STATE OF HUNZA HAD BEEN ABOLISHED AND ITS AREA MERGED IN
THE NORTHERN AREAS TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE RESIDENT
COMMISSIONER OF GILGIT OR BALTISTAN HAS BEEN NOTED WITH
SURPRISE. THE HASTE AND ARBITRARINESS OF THIS ACTION IS
PARTICULARLY GLARING IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT HUNZA IS
A PRINCIPALITY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR WHICH HAD ACCEDED TO
INDIA AND THUS AT BEST PAKISTAN IS ONLY IN ILLEGAL OCCU-
PATION OF THE NORTHERN AREAS OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR. PAKISTAN
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HAS, THROUGH THIS ACTION UNILATERALLY BROUGHT ABOUT A

MATERIAL CHANGE IN THE SITUATION REGARDING ONE OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, FOR WHICH IT HAS NO RIGHT OR SANCTION. THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION REPORTED BY RADIO, TO END THE SEPARATE ENTITY OF HUNZA AND TO MERGE IT IN THE NORTHERN AREAS OF THE COUNTRY, FOLLOWS CLOSE ON THE HEELS OF MR. BHUTTO'S UNCALLED FOR STRICTURES AGAINST INDIA FOR ACCEDING TO THE UNANIMOUS DEMAND OF THE POPULARLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM. THE CONCLUSION IS INEVITABLE THAT THIS CRITICISM WAS MEANT TO COVER UP PAKISTAN'S DESIGNS IN THE NORTHERN AREAS OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR. END TEXT.SCHNEIDER

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